IV.—RULING REGARDING THE PETITION PRESENTED BY SRI P. S. CHINNADURAI ON THE 27TH MARCH 1958.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now give a ruling on the point raised by the Hon. the Leader of the House about the petition submitted by Sri P. S. Chinnadurai.

Under Rule 218 of the Madras Assembly Rules, a Member can present a petition addressed to the Assembly on a matter actually then under consideration of the Assembly. The petition so presented should be dated and signed by the petitioner or petitioners. The point raised by the Hon. the Leader of the House is whether such a petitioner or petitioners can be a member or members among others who have signed the petition.

In the House of Commons, a member is permitted to present a petition from himself. The only condition to be observed in such cases is that he should entrust such a petition to some other member. This rule does not extend to cases in which a member presents a petition signed by himself in his representative capacity as a Chairman to a county council or of any public incorporated body.

As regards Lok Sabha, attention is invited to rule 164 of the Lok Sabha which lays down that a member shall not present a petition from himself. It appears from this that he cannot be one of the signatories to a petition signed by others.

But so far as this Assembly Rules are concerned, there is no rule similar to Rule 164 of the Lok Sabha. In the absence of any such provision barring a member from being a signatory to a petition or one of the signatories to a petition presented to this Assembly, in my opinion, it appears that the present petition cannot be rejected on the ground stated by the Hon. the Leader of the House.

The petition in the present case is a printed one and the signatories' names are also printed. Under Rule 217 of the Madras Assembly Rules, the petition should be dated and signed by the petitioner or petitioners. The practice in the House of Commons also is that the petition should be signed. The petition is liable to be rejected on this ground.

We will now go to Demands for Grants.

V.—BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1958-59.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—DEMAND NO. XXVI—CIVIL WORKS—GRANTS-IN-AID, ETC.

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of the Governor, I beg to move—

"That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,04,35,700 under Demand XXVI—Civil Works—Grants-in-aid."